

suppose that something has occurred lately; I think there is a small party behind the curtain, but I am confident I shall put them down without their ever coming out. Virtue & Truth has for ever borne the test of ages.

We have had a very wet fall and by far the most disagreeable one to sow wheat that I recollect, I however sowed eighty acres, which was nearly what I intended, the ground was not in the order I wished but I have confidence in the land, I planted but a small crop of corn for want of cleared land, it produced tolerably and will /be/ sufficient for use; I /have/ pretty good head of water and am sawing I hope the mill will be of profit to me this winter. I sold last year between 6 & 700 dollars worth of plank, I intend to lose no time with it this winter & spring and am in hopes it will be worth 1000 dollars. I am from a request of my mother about to take possession of her plantation & negroes, and supply her wants; I know it will increase my troubles, but she is totally unable to conduct it; The plantation is mine at her death and she says most of the negroes. They are all spoiling, the plantation is going to wreck; and I think without any pecuniary expence more than those on it can produce I can make it a valuable place for one of my children. I dislike the increase of business but I must get an overseer for it, a thing she would not do.

As to my health, my fingers are about what they were when I was with you, and I have very little affection else where, I am accordingly able and do take a great deal of exercise, but I have had for some time a pain at intervals and constant soreness in my left side which I thought was a pleuritic symptom, but the Doctor says not, that it is probably a Scyrrus; I take the liberty to doubt, but I do not like the soreness which has come on in a fortnight and is inconvenient, though I treat it with contempt. I do not see death any where near at hand, but we must all die /and should it happen/ before, you, could I my dear friend venture to appoint you sole executor to my will with a hope that you would act. If I could it is unnecessary for me to tell you that one great distress would be removed at parting from the world; Property is nothing compared to the manner in which children are brought up, and he must be a bad child indeed who will take none of the advice of his Guardian. Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. I wish no better woman than their Mother, but I have been satisfied and she is no less so that Mothers cannot manage boys.

After a stay of two years and three months in this solitary abode Mrs Pettigrew set out about the 15th ult. for Newbern [torn] were such as to prevent me from going with her, and I got [torn] my engineer and a very worthy little man to go with her, she took the two youngest children and left with me the two eldest, and an